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## GEORGE ALFRED HENTY

by Stanley A. Pachon

In collaboration with William M. Burns, James E. Knott, W. B. Poage

This article and list of Henty titles, the largest that has ever appeared anywhere, has been made possible only by the whole hearted cooperation of the writers collaborators, Messrs. Burns, Knott and Poage, who supplied the writer with much needed information and generously gave up much of their valuable time to make this article and list as complete as it is. The writer hereby wishes to express his sincere thanks to Messrs. Burns, Knott and Poage for their aid and cooperation.

## GEORGE ALFRED HENTY

Dec. 8, 1832 — Nov. 16, 1902

This genial English writer of many fine historical and adventure stories for boys, was born at Trumpington, near Cambridge, England. The eldest son of James and Mary (Bovill) Henty. He received his early education at Westminster School and in 1852 he was admitted to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge but did not stay to receive his degree. Moved by a patriotic impulse, he and a younger brother, Frederic, volunteered for active duty in the British Army at the outbreak of the Crimean War (1854).

In the spring of 1855, Henty and his brother were sent out, as part of the Hospital Commissariat, to the Crimea, where he had the opportunity to observe the closing phases of this struggle. Observations and incidents which he later incorporated into his fine book JACK ARCHER. It was at this time that Henty's literary career had its inception. Writing a number of descriptive letters on the siege of Sebastopol

(Oct. 9, 1854 to Sept. 8, 1855) which were accepted by James Grant, then editor of the MORNING ADVERTISER and appeared in this old established daily (#1 Vol. I Feb. 8, 1854 to 1855). After this brief excursion into literature, Henty did no more writing for a number of years.

In the fall of the same year (1855) Henty had the misfortune in the grievous loss of his brother Frederic, who died from cholera. One of the 16,500 Englishmen who died from disease and privations in this short and bitter struggle. About the same time Henty's own health undermined by fever was invalidated home. Upon his recovery he was decorated by the Turkish Government for his services in the Crimean War, and promoted by his own government to the rank of Purveyor in the Commissary Department. Recognizing his abilities, he was invited by the Italian Government in 1859 to reorganize that country's hospitals during the short Austro-Italian War, a task which he accomplished successfully and well. On his return

he held posts in the Commissariats in Belfast and Portsmouth, but the monotony of his position caused him to resign. For a brief time he assisted his father in the management of a coal mine in Wales, and he himself for a short time managed a mine in Sardinia. These mining experiences were later included in the background material for *FACING DEATH*. Mining also proved uncongenial, he decided to take up journalism. At last he had found his vocation. He for a time wrote articles and sketches which appeared in the *STANDARD* (#1 Vol. 1 May 21, 1827-19—) and other papers and periodicals of the day.

Thomas Hamber then editor of *THE STANDARD* casting about for a correspondent to send out to report the Austro-Italian War (June 20, 1866-Oct. 12, 1866) decided upon Henty, who lost no time in getting to the scenes of Action. On July 20, 1866 we find him on the deck of an Italian man-of-war, observing the disastrous naval battle of Lissa and blowing up, in this engagement of two Italian naval vessels *Re d'Italia* and the *Palesno*, scenes which he described so vividly for the readers of the *STANDARD*. With the defeat of the Italians at *Versa* (July 26) the war was rapidly drawing to a close and on Oct. 12th the treaty of peace was signed.

Henty's reporting must have met with the approval of both the readers and the editor, for in the fall of 1867 we find him reporting the short Anglo-Abbyssinian War and the activities of Lord Napier's Abbyssinian Expedition for the release of the British Consul, some missionaries and others held captive by King Theodore. The expedition was successful in releasing the captives and defeating the mutineer forces of King Theodore (April 13, 1868). The expeditionary force then stormed and captured the stronghold of Magdala which was burned to the ground (April 17). Theodore smarting from his defeat committed suicide. The articles from this expedition were issued in book form under the title *THE MARCH TO MAGDALA*. In the fall of 1869 he was present at the opening of the Suez Canal, and the articles depicting this event appeared in the columns of the *STANDARD*. The Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871) next absorbed him, he followed the re-

treating French forces to Paris and suffered hunger with the other inhabitants during the siege of that city. The incidents observed gave him material for two books covering this period. *THE YOUNG FRANC-TIREURS* and *A WOMAN OF THE COMMUNE*, and several short stories. We next see him in Asiatic Russia with the Russian forces in their conquest of Khiva and was at its surrender (June 10, 1873). In the same year (1873) he attached himself to Lord Wolseleys Ashanti expedition and was present at the capture and the burning of the Ashanti capitol Coomassie (Kumassi) Feb. 1874. The articles from this expedition were published in book form as *THE MARCH TO COOMASSIE*.

During the same year (1874) he was in Spain observing the guerilla warfare in the Carlist insurrection and the material gained by his observations and experiences formed the basis for several books with Spain as a background and covering different periods of history as *BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE* (1703-1706) *UNDER WELLINGTON'S COMMAND* (1806-1812), *WITH THE BRITISH LEGIONS* (1835-1837).

In the spring of the following year (1875) he was one of the correspondents who accompanied the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) on an extended tour of India. In 17 weeks the party covered 8,000 miles by land and 2500 miles by sea. This trip too provided him with new material for future stories, and in 1876 he was with the Turkish Forces, reporting the Turco-Serbian War for the readers of the *STANDARD*. This was to be his last war, his health undermined by hardships and over-exposure in the different climates of Asia, Africa and Europe decided him to seek a more congenial occupation.

He had up to this time, written a number of books but only with moderate success, but his popularity began to rise when—to give his full name—William Henry Giles Kingston—himself a prolific author, invited him to contribute to the *UNION JACK* of which Kingston was editor. At the death of Kingston (b. Feb. 28, 1814—d. Aug. 5, 1880), Henty was chosen editor. (NOTE: *THE UNION JACK: "A Magazine of Healthy Stirling Tales for Boys"* began Vol. I #1 Jan. 1, 1880 and



discontinued Sept. 25, 1883. For a time Henty shared editorial collaboration with Bernard Heldman but from #36 (new series) to the end was edited solely by Henty. 199 issues were published). Henty also edited BEETON'S BOYS OWN MAGAZINE, 1888-1890, but these editorial excursions were all short lived, for his talents lay in spinning his tales, he himself recognized this and devoted his time to writing exclusively. His books now began to appear at the rate of three and four a year, not to mention a large number of shorter stories that were included in collections with other writers. His circle of readers began to expand on both sides of the Atlantic and in the U. S., Scribners, who had up to this time imported his books from England started to publish them in this country. His rising fortunes permitted him to buy a yacht upon which he passed much of his time writing. He took part in the race for The Kaiser cup but with no success. While anchored at Weymouth Harbour, he passed away on board his yacht, Egret, Nov. 16, 1902.

Critics of his books have pointed out the sameness of his plots and other defects in the construction of his stories. But these same critics cannot explain the immense popularity his books have enjoyed, or destroy the liking of the juvenile world for his books. His stories are as fresh and interesting today as the day they were written and it is a great pity that the publication of his many fine tales have been discontinued in favor of many inferior books that clog the reading interests of the boy of today.

Henty was scrupulously accurate in the historical background for his stories. In events and incidents that he observed and later included in his stories he does not depend entirely upon his own experiences and observations but draws heavily upon the observations of other participants who were there. In many of the introductions to his books, he gives sources and references he consulted. The descriptions of battles he describes are all accurate and do not deviate from known historical facts.

Lack of space does not permit in giving an extended synopsis of his books. Only certain ones will be touched briefly to give the reader a partial

idea on the scope of Henty's works. The titles of some of his books are self explanatory and give a general idea of the books action and the time and era in which the action takes place.

In three of his books, Henty takes his readers back to the dawn of written history. In **THE CAT OF BUBASTES** the reader is given a glimpse of ancient Egypt in 1600 B. C. Egypt is also the scene of other stories, but in more modern times. While in **THE YOUNG CARTHAGINIAN** (221-216) B. C. Henty describes the brilliant military campaigns of Hannibal in Spain and Italy. **FOR THE TEMPLE** the scenes and actions take place in and around Jerusalem in (67-70 A.D.). Against the broad canvas of the Crusades, he paints a vivid word picture of those stirring times in **WINNING HIS SPURS** (1190-1194). Historical incidents on the European Continent are told in these fine stories. **THE LION OF ST. MARK** (1348), **A KNIGHT OF THE WHITE CROSS** (1470-1480), **BY ENGLANDS AID** (1585-1604), **IN THE REIGN OF TERROR** (1790-1793), **YOUNG FRANC-TIREURS** (1871-1872), etc. **THE BRITISH ISLES** are not neglected and to mention a few, we find **BERIC. THE BRITON** (60-70 A.D.) tells of the invasion and occupation of England by the Romans. **DRAGON AND THE RAVEN** (870-901) narrates the story of King Alfred and his times. Among the others can be mentioned **IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE** (1295-1315), **A MARCH ON LONDON** (1381-1382), **WHEN LONDON BURNED** (1665-1666), etc. Next, he shifts the action of some of his stories to the American Continent. **BY RIGHT OF CONQUEST** details the subjugation of Mexico by Cortez. **REDSKINS AND COLONISTS** describes the perils and hardships of Colonial settlement, while the closing phases of the French and Indian Wars are chronicled in **WITH WOLFE IN CANADA** (1755-1757). The American Revolutionary and Civil Wars are treated in **TRUE TO THE OLD FLAG** and **WITH LEE IN VIRGINIA**. His trip to the western part of the United States and the mining camps of California must have impressed him deeply for out of this visit grew the following stories, **REDSKIN AND COWBOY**, **CAPTAIN BAYLEY'S HEIR**, **IN THE HEART**

OF THE ROCKIES. South America is the setting for WITH COCHRANE THE DAUNTLESS (1818-1825) and OUT ON THE PAMPAS. Henty touches other parts of the world in his stories as for instance, New Zealand in MAORI AND SETTLER (1860's), Australia in A FINAL RECKONING. China in WITH THE ALLIES TO PEKIN (1898-1900). South Africa in THE YOUNG COLONISTS (1877-1878). It is possible that Henty had a great admiration for Napoleon, not the man, but the brilliant military strategist, for he describes the exploits of the "Little Corporal" in the following stories, AT ABOUKIR AND ACRE (1798-1801), ONE OF THE 28th (1804-1805), THROUGH RUSSIAN SNOWS (1812). Henty's tour of India with the Prince of Wales provided him with material for the following WITH CLIVE IN INDIA (1751-1757), THE LOST HEIR, IN TIMES OF PERIL (1851), etc. Modern times were not neglected for although Henty was inactive as a journalist for a number of years, his knowledge of the country served him well in presenting stories in a modern setting as WITH ROBERTS TO PRETORIA (1899-1900) WITH BULLER AT NATAL (1900-1901), and others. This brief resume will give the reader and collector of Henty a taste of what is in store for him in the many fine stories not even mentioned for lack of space.

Henty's books are being seriously collected by a number of Henty enthusiasts. One of the finest collections, to the writers present knowledge, that is rich in English first editions is that of Mr. James E. Knott. Mr. Poages fine collection of nearly a hundred volumes leans heavily on the American editions of his works. Mr. Burns and Mr. Cline both have fine collections with many scarce and hard to get Henty items. The writer hopes that this article will "smoke out" others into the open so that further data on Henty and his works may be brought to light.

Among the most sought after editions of his books are those issued either by Scribner of New York or Blackie of London. These two publishers have published most of the original Henty books, with scattered titles by English and American Publishers. Many American publishers re-

issued them in cheap format, in which the binding and the paper is of the poorest kind. The cheapest undoubtedly were those of Lupton, Mershon, Donohue, Federal, etc. A better edition was that issued by Burt, Hurst, Dutton, etc. A list of all his publishers is given in the list that follows.

The appended list of most of the Henty books was made possible by the whole hearted co-operation of Messrs. Burns, Cline, Knott and Poage. The writer is aware that the list is far from complete and hopes that interested readers and collectors will supplement it with information in their possession. Dates in parenthesis following the title are the approximate years in which the action of the story takes place. The name of the hero or the principle character is given, for easier identification of changed titles, and these are quite a few as the list shows. All books listed are cloth bound editions with the exception of Street and Smith Medal Libry. and Munroe's Seaside Libry. Publication dates are also given where known to the compiler, but in this errors may have crept in and the writer would welcome corrections on this. The writer would also welcome additions, corrections and criticisms on the list and on the data here presented.

The writer lists below the full names of the Publishers mentioned in the list, with the approximate years in which they issued the Henty books.

W. L. Allison—N. Y.  
D. Appleton & Co.—N. Y.  
Blackie—London  
Chas. E. Brown—Boston  
Brown and Co.—London  
A. L. Burt—N. Y.  
H. M. Caldwell—N. Y. and Boston  
Cassell—London  
Chatterton-Peck—N. Y. (1905-19??)  
Chatto and Windus—London  
W. B. Conkey—Chicago  
W. & R. Chambers—London  
M. A. Donohue—Chicago (1905-1930)  
E. P. Dutton & Co.—N. Y.  
Federal Book Co.—N. Y.  
R. F. Fenno—N. Y.  
Frowde—London  
Griffith, Farran—London  
Harper—N. Y.  
Henry and Co.—London  
Hodder—London  
Hurst & Co.—N. Y.  
Hutchinson & Co.—London



International Book Co.—N. Y.  
 Lippincott—N. Y. and London  
 Longmans, Green and Co.—N. Y. & London  
 F. M. Lupton—N. Y. (189?-190?)  
 Marston—London  
 Mershon Co.—Rahway, N. J. (189?-1905?)  
 Geo. Munroe—N. Y.  
 S. W. Partridge—London  
 Patterson-White—London  
 Porter & Coates—Philadelphia (189?-1905)  
 Sampson, Low—London  
 Charles Scribner Sons—N. Y. (1890?-19??)  
 Scribner & Welford—N. Y. (Imported Hentys from London under this name)  
 Searle & Livingston—London  
 Skeffington—London  
 Street & Smith—N. Y. (1899-1905)  
 Superior Book Co.—Akron, O. & N. Y.  
 Tinsley Brothers—London  
 Warde, Locke & Co.—London  
 F. W. White—London  
 John C. Winston Co.—Philadelphia  
 The Worthington Co.—N. Y. (189?-1905)

That there may be other publishers who issued Henty books is possible, the writer would appreciate further data on this, but believes that the 45 publishers listed comprise nearly all the publishers who at one time or another issued the Henty books.

(To be continued in the January issue)

## NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Jesse Harriman says in the Nov. 22 issue of Newsweek, there's a very good article on an English writer of old penny bloods.

Charlie Daniel and his brother have just arrived from Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, England, and will make their residence at 245½ Plant St., Tampa 6, Fla. "Welcome Pards, to the good old U. S. A. sure hope you will like it here very much, and thanks ever so much to W. B. Poage for all he and his folks did for you too. Today is Nov. 29th, you have nice summer vacation down there, up here, it is snowing.

Charlie says that the special large size numbers of the original Buffalo Bill Library, 2d ran from Nos. 85 to

240 inc., then went back to their original size again.

John E. Clark of Bridgeport, Conn. says there was a fine article in the Grit Mag, for Dec. 7th, 1947 on "Dime Thrillers of Dad's Day, Win Respectability With Age." Who has a copy, ye editor is interested, or the address?

See Bro. Pachon's fine article on G. A. Henty, sorry it had to be broken, but will try and have it all in the January number. Sure is a fine article.

Sorry, but ye editor won't have any Christmas cards this year. So please forgive Bro. Cummings this time, he'll make up for it in the Roundup. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

We also want to thank our printer, of the Dime Novel Roundup, Harlan W. Miller, for the fine job he has done, in the printing throughout the year, and we all wish him a merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

## When The Beadle Stories Got a Book Notice Mention in the Press

by Rev. Roland D. Sawyer

The notice below shows the high esteem placed upon the old-time, original salmon-colored cover, Beadle Dime Novel. The stories were of 100 pages, good type for those days, and of a size to fit into the back pocket of a soldier at the front, and how eagerly they were snapped up to be read, used to be told to me by those who had worn the blue on Southland battlefields.

## LATE PUBLICATIONS

"We received this week a copy of THE LOST TRAIL, pub. by Beadle and Co., New York City, and on sale at Fogg and Fellowes at 10 cents per copy.

The story is by Edward S. Ellis, so well known as an author of Seth Jones, The Forest Spy, and other Beadle publications.

This story is bound to become one of the most popular of Beadles publications; it is a thrilling romance of our American Wilds, is well worthy of reading."

Exeter, N. H., News-Letter

Aug. 8, 1864

## PARTIAL LIST OF ALL MEMBERS FOR 1948-9 of H. H. B.

22. John P. Ball, 4816 Cortland St., Chicago 39, Ill.
26. M. Bertrand Couch, Box 2297, San Francisco, Calif.
55. Stanley Pachon, 627 Hayes St., Bethlehem, Pa.
60. Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, Ware, Mass.
74. Charles W. Daniel, 268 Tomswood Hill, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, England
80. Clarence D. Lamb, P. O. Box 424, Salina, Kansas.
84. E. Marvin Smith, 1954 Dublin St., Mobile 20, Ala.
90. Robert McDowell, 20 Mifflin Ave., Uniontown, Pa.
132. T. Kenneth Meadway, 206 W. 6th Ave., Boyertown, Pa.
134. Edward Doone, Arcade News Agency, Charleston, W. Va.
156. Ernest M. Metler, Box 586, Closter, N. J.
158. Mrs. Mildred Koch (Doll Collector), 263 Puritan Ave., Forest Hills, L. I., N. Y.
162. Joseph J. Myler, 333 Pelham Rd., Rochester 10, N. Y.
170. Herman Brauner, 4318 Pennsgrove St., Phila., Pa.
175. Albert Tannenbaum, 434 Charles St., Bridgeport 6, Conn.
180. F. F. Johnson, 1485 So. Second St., East, Salt Lake City, Utah.
191. Frank O. Hall, 1916 Taft, Route 4, Lawton, Okla. (new member)
16. Willis E. Hurd, 3500 22nd St. N., Arlington, Va. (was left out of Nov. list by mistake)
192. Jesse Harriman, 187 Highland Ave., Worcester 2, Mass. (School Teacher) (New member, not a collector)

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